

Frequently asked questions for students

Will this...? How much...?

Would I...? When...?

Do I...? How can...?



NALA

National Adult Literacy Agency

Áisíneacht Náisiúnta Litearthachta do Aosaigh

I didn't enjoy school as a child. Will this be like school?

No. You will find that classes are very relaxed and informal. They are often a lot of fun and have a tea break in the middle. Adult literacy learning is very different from what people may remember of school. Literacy learning is informal and it's learner-centred so that the learning is relevant to you.

Will I have to do exams?

No. It is up to you whether you want to get official qualifications or sit exams.

How much are adult education classes?

They are free.

Are adult education classes only on during the daytime? I work full-time and would not be free then.

There are classes during the day and every evening.

Would I have to join a group?

No. One-to-one classes are also available. This would be just you and a volunteer tutor.

I would be worried that I wouldn't be able to keep up with the other people in a class.

Don't be. You can work at your own pace. Also, one-to-one classes are also available. You can talk to your local adult literacy organiser about this if you're still worried.

What are adult literacy tutors like?

They are very helpful and understanding. Also, they are trained to teach adults and are very aware of the concerns of the adult student.

I don't want anyone to know that I am attending adult education classes.

That's no problem. Adult literacy classes are confidential. No one except you, your tutor and the adult literacy organiser need know about you

attending classes. Remember also that nobody will know why you are going into the centre because there are lots of other interesting classes available there as well. You could be going to a computer, art or even a dancing class!

Do I have to join the nearest Adult Literacy Centre?

No. You can join any service you like.

I'm afraid to go back to education.

Don't be. Remember everyone is nervous at first when they are trying something new so you are not the only one. You will find that the tutors and adult literacy organisers are very kind and understanding and are eager to help you overcome any fears you might have.

I had a really bad experience at school.

Adult literacy learning is very different from what you may remember from school. Literacy learning is informal and it's tailored in a way that the learning is relevant to your life and interests. Literacy learning is free and totally confidential and it can be done on a one to one basis with a tutor or in small groups.

I have never admitted to anyone that I have a problem with reading.

Don't worry, you are not alone, lots of people all over Ireland are returning to learning and brushing up on their reading, writing and maths skills. At the moment there are over 45,000 people attending literacy classes around the country.

How can I find out more?

If you need to find out more just call our **free support line on 1800 20 20 65** and you will be put in contact with the literacy service closest to you. It's that simple. All you have to do is make the first call.

If you have access to the internet you can also see more information on www.literacy.ie.

Information Documents available in this series

General

- ▶ What is NALA?
- ▶ History of NALA
- ▶ Strategic Plan overview
- ▶ Our corporate sponsors
- ▶ Frequently asked questions
- ▶ Current facts on literacy in Ireland

Promotional activity

- ▶ Our TV programmes
- ▶ Our campaign work
- ▶ Our websites

Areas of work

Information sheets are available on each of NALA's areas of work, explaining our policy position, what we are doing, the context and background of the area and detailing any relevant research

Join us . . .

- ▶ Membership benefits (includes membership form)
- ▶ Importance of students to our work
- ▶ How to become a tutor

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